

Dean Ellis was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1920. He was apprenticed to Sandor Vago at the age of thirteen and remained with him intermittently until he was eighteen. He won a four-year scholarship to the Cleveland Institute of Art beginning in 1939. Ellis enlisted in the United States Army and served three years in the Pacific, returning to graduate from the Institute in 1946 and then spent one year at the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts. Ellis found work as a commercial artist with Advance Studios in Cleveland. In 1954 he traveled to Spain and Italy on a Tiffany Grant. His first exhibition was at the age of sixteen at the Butler Art Gallery in Youngstown. He was a frequent exhibitor and winner at Cleveland Museum of Art May Shows. Life magazine described Ellis as "one of the nineteen most promising young American painters" in 1950. He has had numerous one-person and group shows and currently lives in New York City.

Dean Ellis - Born Detroit, Michigan Dec 25, 1920

- graduate - East High School, Cleveland (4 yr scholarship)
- Att. Cleveland School of Art 1939-1942, 1945-46
- (1946) 1 yr at Boston Museum School of Fine Arts
- Apprenticed to Sandra Vago at 13 yrs old
Remained intermittently w/ her until age 18
- Enlisted US Army 1942 fought in Pacific
- Married to portraitist Lois Rossbach
- → New York 1956
- Traveled in Spain & Italy, Tiffany Grant (1954)
- Commercial artist at Advance Studios Cleve after graduation

→ NY 1 man show March 1958 at Manhattan Grand Central Moderns Gallery

- Called "one of the 19 most promising young American pters by editors of Life 1958 March"
- First exhibited age 16 Butler Art Gallery, Princeton
- Frequent exhibitor and winner at CMA May Show 1988 →

1st prize "Approaching Storm" (1988)

- AWARDS -
- 1947 "The Wrestler" 1st prize - figure comp
\$1,000 award for "Gage Street, Boston" (1947) in Old Northwest Territory Art Exhibit at Illinois State Fair